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Remark Denied By White House

Reuter

President Nixon never said that Israel and environmentalists would have to take a back seat to the energy crisis, according to federal energy chief William E. Simon.

The President was reported by The Washington Post to have told a conference of state governors last week that his highest priorities in the energy crisis were jobs and ending the Arab oil boycott ahead of the environment and Israel.

But Simon denied yesterday that Mr. Nixon had made any such remark, telling a press conference questioner "no" when asked about the report.